

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) RFI-HMS-224-17-05-HPO
STATE HOMELESS EMERGENCY GRANTS PROGRAM**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)
BENEFIT, EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (BESSD)
HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE (HPO)**

The State of Hawai'i, through the Department of Human Services (DHS), Benefit, Employment & Support Services Division (BESSD), Homeless Programs Office (HPO) issues this Request for Information (RFI) to seek information and recommendations from the general public, private sector, and community-based organizations, as well as religious organizations pursuant to Section 104, Public Law 104-193.

The mission of the DHS is to provide quality, efficient and effective services designed to help homeless individuals and families access permanent housing through the State Homeless Emergency Grants (SHEG) Program. SHEG is an intervention program designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and avoid future homelessness. The core components of the SHEG program is to assist homeless individuals and families with housing, food, medical and other types of expenses arising from emergency needs including housing rental deposit and rent; utility cost and deposit. The SHEG program will assist homeless individuals and families that are sheltered, unsheltered or at risk of homelessness. The SHEG program will comply with all established policies developed by DHS regarding prioritization and eligibility for this service.

Programs funded under this opportunity will use a Housing First (HF) approach to service delivery. The goals of the HF approach are to help homeless people access permanent housing as rapidly as possible by removing barriers to program entry, assisting with quickly locating and accessing housing options and providing services and support post housing to promote stability and prevent evictions and returns to homelessness. Pre-conditions to SHEG program entry such as sobriety and completion of treatment programs are not consistent with the HF approach. In HF, the expectations are that people will assume the full rights and responsibilities of tenancy, meet standard lease obligations and will not be denied from SHEG for other reasons besides violations of standard lease requirements. Staff use assertive engagement to assist participants in achieving housing goals, make connections to community services and stabilization supports, and prevent eviction and returns to homelessness.

The information and recommendations received through this RFI will assist the DHS in preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure the aforementioned services for the State Homeless Emergency Grants (SHEG) Program.

An orientation meeting will not be held. Responses to this RFI are to be submitted in writing, no later than September 16, 2016, 4:30 PM Hawai'i Standard Time (HST), to:

Department of Human Services
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division
Homeless Programs Office
820 Mililani Street, Suite 606
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Attn: Paul Ruddell, Program Specialist
Phone: (808) 586-7070
PRuddell@dhs.hawaii.gov

The Department may engage in further informal discussions to gather additional information and recommendations. The Department reserves the right to incorporate in a solicitation, if issued, for such contract, any information and recommendations present and/or submitted in response to this RFI. Neither the Department nor any respondent to the RFI bears any obligation under this RFI.